



REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-28 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 10, 16 and 22 being independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-12, 15-18, 21-25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Skelly (U.S. Patent No. 6,064,383) in view of newly cited Umeda (Japan Patent Application Publication No. 10-198615) and Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,240 B1). Claims 7, 8, 13, 14, 19, 20, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Skelly in view of Umeda, Watanabe and Evans (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0002325 A1).

The Examiner concedes that Skelly fails to specifically disclose creating by the user, at least one emoticon formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination. The Examiner states that Umeda suggests these recitations in paragraphs 19 and 24, and asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Skelly with the alleged suggestions of Umeda. The Examiner also concedes that Skelly and Umeda fail to disclose storing as part of a short message the emoticon selected by a user. The Examiner states that Watanabe suggests these recitations in FIGs. 2-6, col. 6, lines 11-61, and col. 7, line 55 to col. 8, line 61, and asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Skelly with the alleged suggestions of Watanabe.

Claim 1 recites, in part, an emoticon input method in a mobile terminal, including creating, by a user, at least one emoticon formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination; storing the at least one formed emoticon in the mobile terminal; entering an emoticon input mode; displaying the stored emoticons in an emoticon input mode; selecting a created and stored emoticon; and storing as part of a short message the emoticon selected by the user. Independent Claims 10, 16 and 22 include similar recitations.

The Examiner relies on paragraphs 19 and 24 of Umeda for satisfying the claim recitations of "creating, by the user, at least one emoticon are formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination". Umeda describes an electronic mail (email) system that prepares multimedia email with a plural number of temporally synchronized

media information. The Umeda email system is equipped with an interface that allegedly overcomes independent transmission/reception of media information including language information and image information by temporally synchronizing the media information.

Umeda describes, in paragraph 2, that when handling a plural number of information such as pictures and music, conventional email techniques independently transmitted and received this information. In the email of Umeda, as expressly explained in paragraph 24, the icons which show the control program of the image information and information, such as pictures, music and character information, are arranged along the time sequence of the email. Umeda merely suggests arranging media information contents including (1) language type information, e.g. characters, (2) image information, e.g. icons associated with image, sound, music, etc., and (3) program information, e.g. icons associated with program information, in one dimensional space along a time flow sequence.

However, Umeda only cursorily discusses icons and nowhere even mentions creation of icons by a user. Specifically, Umeda fails to supplement the deficiencies of Skelly because Umeda nowhere teaches or reasonably suggests creating, by a user, at least one emoticon formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination, as recited in the claims. As previously explained in the Amendment filed April 12, 2007, Watanabe and Evans also fail to supplement the deficiencies of Skelly.

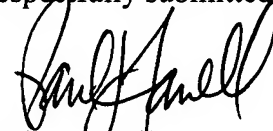
More particularly, Skelly, Umeda, Watanabe, Evans, or any combination thereof, fails to teach or reasonably suggest an emoticon input method in a mobile terminal, including creating, by a user, at least one emoticon formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination; storing the at least one formed emoticon in the mobile terminal; entering an emoticon input mode; displaying the stored emoticons in an emoticon input mode; selecting a created and stored emoticon; and storing as part of a short message the emoticon selected by the user, as recited in Claim 1. Skelly, Umeda, Watanabe, Evans, or any combination thereof, also fails to teach or reasonably suggest similar recitations in independent Claims 10, 16 and 22.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 10, 16 and 22 are allowable over Skelly, Umeda, Watanabe, Evans, or any combination thereof.

While not conceding the patentability of the dependent claims, *per se*, Claims 2, 4-9, 11-15, 17-21 and 23-28 are also allowable for at least the above reasons.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 2 and 4-28, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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